OTONARI COMPLEX
Chapter 19: As Always, Haven't Changed
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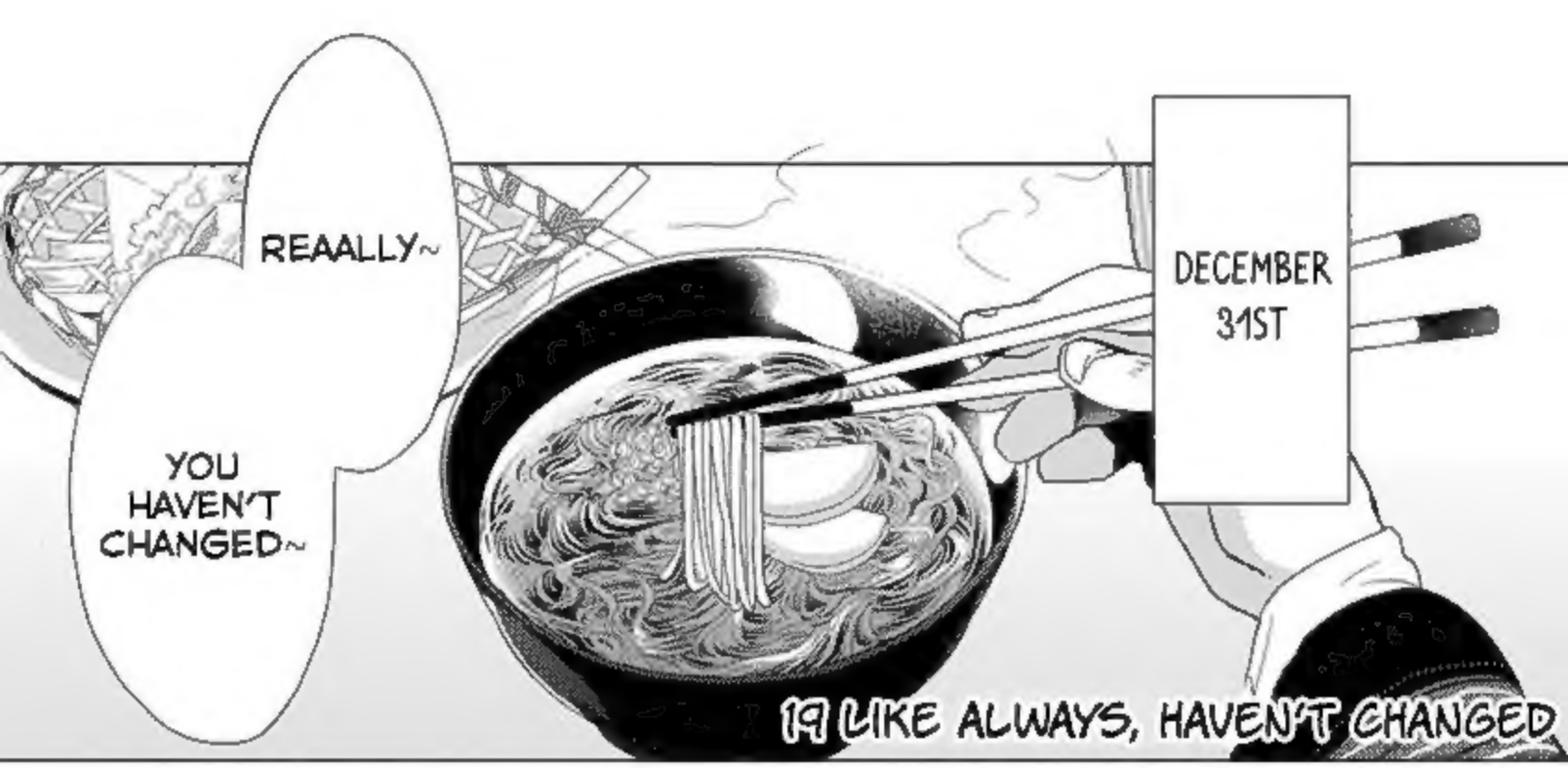


19 LIKE ALWAYS, HAVEN'T CHANGED

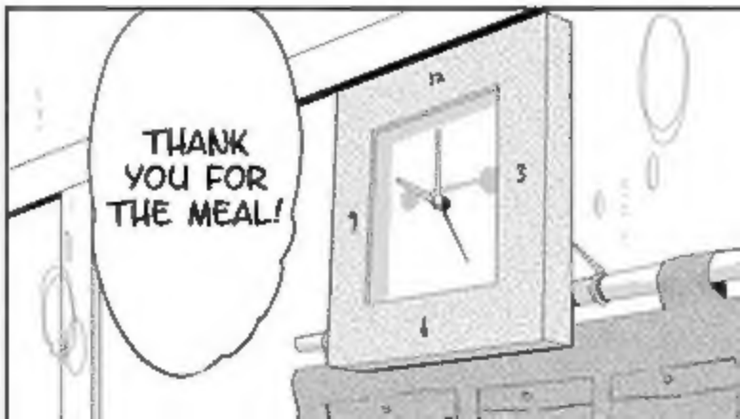
MAKOTO SPENT THE DAY IN OUR HOUSE.
IT'S YOUR TYPICAL NEW YEAR'S EVE.
blow
BUT YOU TWO REAAALLY HAVEN'T CHANGED IN THE SLIGHTEST.

Wa
WHAT?
hahaARE YOU ONE
OF THOSE
ha HERBIVORES?
...I WOULDN'T BE HERE SPENDING NEW YEAR'S EVE IF I HAD ONE.

ずるっ
ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE RIGHT NOW, MAKOTO?

I'LL TAKE A SHOWER BEFORE OUR FIRST SHRINE VISIT THIS YEAR.
I'm all dirty after cleaning the house.
CALL ME ONCE YOU'RE DONE PREPARING, THEN.
I'll be waiting inside my room.

YOUR SOBA WILL GET SOGGY IF YOU ENTERTAIN HIM.
HE'S AT IT AGAIN. HE TELLS THAT STORY EVERY YEAR.
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE~
Dear, your broth is spilling all over.


THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL!

SHOWER, THEN DRY HAIR.
トン トン
HE SHOULD BE DONE IN 20 MINUTES.
HE'S COMING DRESSED AS A BOY AFTER ALL.
I'll get changed, too.
AN HOUR LATER
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
SIS, YOU WERE HOME?!
I lost...
JUST TO TAKE A BATH.
I'LL BE RETURNING TO WORK AFTER THIS.

AFTER THIS?! SOUNDS TOUGH...
OH, I'M FINE!!
I FELT REFRESHED AFTER TAKING A BATH. PLUS I'VE RELIEVED MY STRESS TOO!!
.....

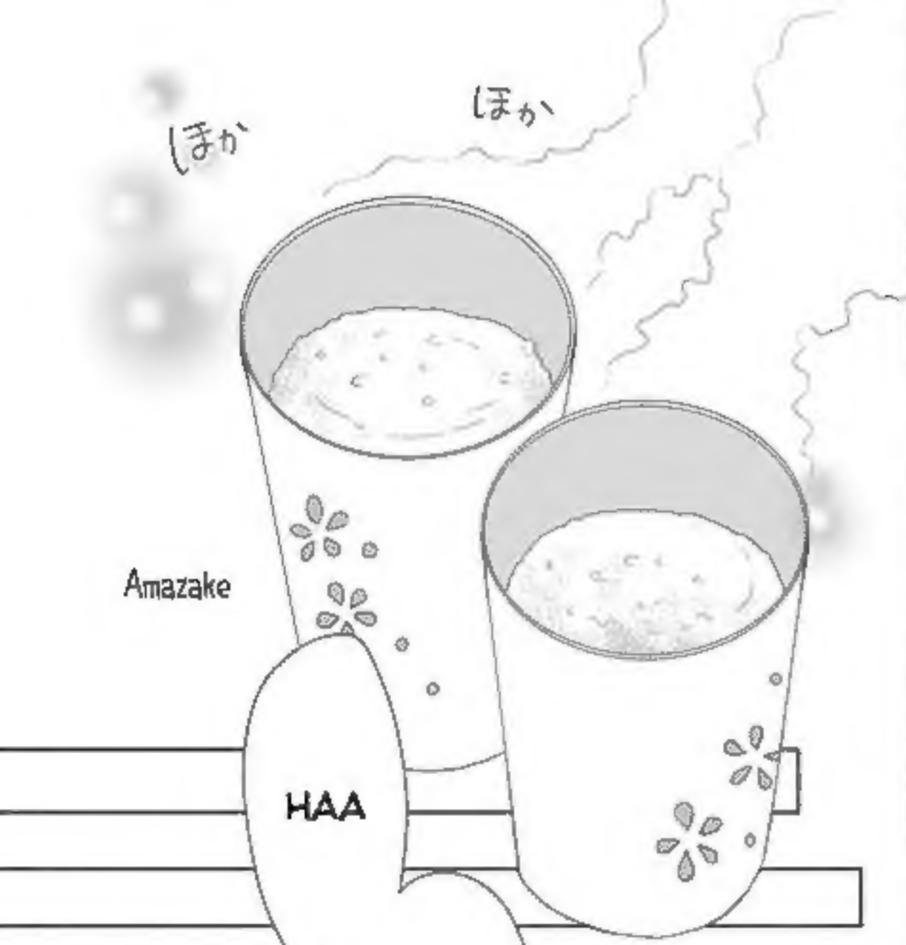
LET'S GET GOING, TOO...

BYE. I'LL DROP BY YOUR HOUSE TOMORROW WHEN I COME HOME.
TAKE CARE.

!!!

WHAT?
It's been a while since you last cross-dressed

I WAS JUST THINKING
YOU'VE IMMEDIATELY USED THE SCARF I GAVE YOU AS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.
I'M GLAD YOU ALSO LIKED MY PRESENT THIS YEAR.
WELL...
WE ALREADY KNOW EACH OTHER'S TASTES. TOO LATE FOR THAT.
SO WHEN WILL YOU WEAR THOSE PUMPS?
OH
I'M SAVING IT FOR A SPECIAL EVENT.
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?


ほか
ほか
Amazake
HAA

ざわ
がやがや
ざわ

IT'S ANOTHER YEAR. TIME SURE FLIES FAST.
ざわ
ざわざわ
ざわざわ
YOU ALSO SAID, "TIME SURE FLIES FAST," LAST CHRISTMAS.

MIDDLE BLESSING
LUCK
BLESSING
LUCK

I THOUGHT FOUR YEARS IN UNI IS A LONG TIME. BUT ONE YEAR WENT BY SO FAST.
I GUESS.

WE NEED TO DECIDE ON OUR MAJOR AND JOIN A SEMINAR THIS YEAR.
DOES YOUR DEPARTMENT REQUIRE YOU TO JOIN A SEMINAR?
YEAH. AND WE START ON OUR SECOND YEAR.

NEXT YEAR WILL BE BUSIER.
WE NEED TO CONSIDER JOB-HUNTING COUNSELINGS AS WELL.
...I DON'T WANNA THINK ABOUT THOSE STUFF RIGHT NOW.
I SEE... WE'LL GET BUSY THIS YEAR.

WELL, OUR ENVIRONMENT IS GRADUALLY CHANGING.
BUT LIKE WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN
LET'S DO OUR BEST TOGETHER.

...MAKOTO?
LISTEN, YOU--
!
OGA AND TOMO!!!
You have got to be kidding me!
CRAP! I TURNED AROUND RIGHT AWAY!

HUH, WHAT? ARE YOU INTO THAT?
FOR REAL?!
WOW, AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU'RE A SUPER CUTE GIRL.
YOU SURPRISED ME! WHAT'S WITH THAT GETUP~!!
CRAP! I CAN'T USE THE TWIN SISTER SETTING!
THEY KNOW MY FAMILY STRUCTURE ...!!
How did he notice when it's this dark...!!!
ST-
STOP !!!
...S-
SHE'S NOT MAKOTO!

ぽんっ
...I-
I heard someone call my cousin's name so I turned around right away...
A-Are you Makoto's friends?
SHE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON? SERIOUSLY?!
Wait, cousin?!
HUH? BUT
THAT'S HOW MAKOTO'S FACE LOOKS LIKE. PLUS HE TURNED AROUND WHEN I CALLED HIS NAME...
I-I SEE.
OH, SORRY ABOUT THAT. WE'RE MAKOTO'S FRIENDS SINCE GRADE SCHOOL.
OH, SO YOU'RE HIS COUSIN~ YOU'RE LIKE CLONES~!!
YOU THERE.
WHAT'S WRONG?
Let's go.
HEY
COME ON, LET'S GO.
SORRY ABOUT THAT, DUDE.
So embarrassing

HUH...
BY ANY CHANCE, ARE YOU KUJI AKIRA?
Y-YES... I AM...
?
?
?
W- Who are you guys?
EH
UH...
YOU'RE HUGE AS EVER!! HOW TALL ARE YOU?!
AFTER TAKING A GOOD LOOK, YOU REALLY ARE KUJI!!
I didn't recognize you at all.
WHAAA AAAAAA AAAAAA AATTTT ?!!
KNEW IT--
ﾋﾞｸﾝ

Ogawa and
Okazaki...
AH
AA AHH !!!
Remember us now?
What a coincidence!!!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE GRADE SCHOOL GRA-DUATION!!!
THIS GUY'S OKAZAKI.
LONG TIME NO SEE. I'M OGAWA.

HEY...
KNOCK IT--
KNOCK IT OFF, TOMO.
You're too close
SO I HEARD YOU WENT TO AN ALL GIRLS' SCHOOL? BET YOU WERE POPULAR, HUH?
WOAH! YOU'RE MORE GOOD-LOOKING THAN MOST GUYS.
You're taller than me!!! How lucky~

ARE YOU STILL CLOSE WITH MAKOTO AS ALWAYS?
!
WHAT? WE'RE JUST REMINISCING THE GOOD OL' DAYS.
HEY, KUJI.
!
Y-YEAH.

UH-HUH.
...WHY DO YOU ASK?

ARE YOU TWO GOING OUT?
?
NO, THAT'S NOT THE CASE AT ALL.

YOU TWO REALLY HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
snicker
HUH, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
NOTHING.
WE'RE GOING, THEN. SORRY FOR STALLING YOU TOO LONG.
TELL MAKOTO WE SAID HI!
Bye, cousin!
AH
YEAH, BYE...!!

THAT SURE CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD!
BUT LIKE WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN
LET'S DO OUR BEST TOGETHER.
YOU TWO
REALLY HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
I PANICKED BECAUSE I THOUGHT THEY'RE GONNA FIND OUT~
MAKO-TO?
LIKE ALWAYS ...
HAVEN'T CHANGED ...
WHAT'S WRONG?

...NO, IT'S JUST...
IT TURNS OUT I DON'T HAVE MUCH LEEWAY THAN I THOUGHT.

...COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE NOT DOING WELL WITH YOUR CREDITS?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

MAKOTO...

CHAPTER NOTES:

Page 2:

Toshikoshi soba (year-crossing noodle) =
a Japanese traditional noodle bowl dish eaten on New Year's eve. This custom lets go of hardship of the year because soba noodles are easily cut while eating. Aside from soba, they eat ozouni, osechi, go Google the rest.

That table-blanket thingy Makoto and Akira were using is called a **kotatsu.** There's a heat source underneath so it's really warm. Winter must-have. Once you get in one though you can (not) get out.

JK. Of course you can. But why would you?

Page 3:

Hatsumoude =
the first visit to a shrine or temple during the first few days of January, where family, relatives and friends pray together for a fortunate year ahead.

In Japan, to observe **Oosouji** means to clean the clutter, the dirt and the dust of the past. It is often practiced at the end of one year and into the new, the purpose being to banish any old problems or ways of thinking and to welcome a new start, with a clean slate (and home).

OTONARI COMPLEX

Best friend or more, friendzone, Childhood friend Complex?

CHAPTER NOTES:

Page 7:

Amazake =
Hot sweet wine made from fermented rice. It's actually non-alcoholic so even minors can drink one. I got to taste one for the first time when I visited a local factory in Okayama. Good stuff. They even sell chocolate and matcha flavored ones there.

Omikuji =
Japanese fortune-telling paper strips that can be found at shrines and temples throughout the country. It costs around ¥100 and they sell those all year round. Traditionally you tie your fortune to a pole, tree, or wires. Some shrines have fortunes written in English.

Page 8:

Seminar (zemi) =
basically a seminar of around 10 students studying/researching an area of their major the professor is particularly interested in. Seminars typically begin in your third year of college. The zemi is also where you write your senior thesis, or sotsuron
(source: ezz goes to japan)

Job Hunting Counseling =
exactly what it says. Typically begins before summer break until early October. You go to counseling more than once. JHC orient you about employment situations, what companies look for when hiring, how to write a good resume, how to prepare for an interview, ect. They invite Human Resources Officers, uni alumni and alumnae

Fortunes you can get:
Great blessing (dai-kichi, 大吉)
Middle blessing (chū-kichi, 中吉)
Small blessing (shō-kichi, 小吉)
Blessing (kichi, 吉)
Half-blessing (han-kichi, 半吉)
Ending blessing (sue-kichi, 末吉)
Ending small blessing (sue-shō-kichi, 末小吉)
Curse (kyō, 凶)
Small curse (shō-kyō, 小凶)
Half-curse (han-kyō, 半凶)
Ending curse (sue-kyō, 末凶)
Great curse (dai-kyō, 大凶)